

REMARKS

Claims 1-20, 22-26, and 28-35 are pending in the present application.

Claims 21 and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 1 is amended to specify that the radiation absorbing particles are present in the sheet in an amount sufficient for a sheet of the material having a thickness of about 0.3 mm to block at least about 30 % of scattered secondary X-radiation at an intensity of about 60 kV and at least about 20% of scattered secondary X-radiation at an intensity of about 100 kV. Support for this amendment is found in the Examples on pages 11-13, and in particular in the data in Table 5, on page 11 of the specification. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Rejections Under 25 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claims 1-8, 20, 22-25, and 29-35 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Thiess *et al.* in view of Li *et al.*, incorporating by reference Petrash *et al.* Claims 9, 20 and 26 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Thiess *et al.* in view of Li *et al.* incorporating by reference Petrash *et al.*, and further in view of Sandbank *et al.* Claims 10 and 11 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Thiess *et al.* in view of Li *et al.* incorporating by reference Petrash *et al.*, and further in view of Lange *et al.* Claims 12-19 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Thiess *et al.* in view of Li *et al.* incorporating by reference Petrash *et al.*, and further in view of MacLeod *et al.* Similarly, claim 28 was rejected as being unpatentable over Thiess *et al.* in view of Li *et al.* incorporating by reference Petrash *et al.*, and further in view of Koide *et al.* Claim 1 was rejected as being unpatentable over Sandbank *et al.* in view of Li *et al.* incorporating by reference Petrash *et al.* Claims 2-27 and 29-35 were rejected as being unpatentable over Sandbank *et al.* in view of Li *et al.* incorporating by reference Petrash *et al.*, and further in view of MacLeod *et al.*; Finally, claim 28 was rejected as being unpatentable over Sandbank *et al.* in view of Li *et al.* incorporating by reference Petrash *et al.*, and MacLeod *et al.* and further in view of Koide *et al.* None of these combinations of references disclose all of the limitations of the claims.

Claim 1 is amended to specify that the radiation absorbing particles are present in the sheet in an amount sufficient for a sheet of the material having a thickness of about 0.3 mm to

block at least about 30 % of scattered secondary X-radiation at an intensity of about 60 kV and at least about 20% of scattered secondary X-radiation at an intensity of about 100 kV. All of the other claims in the application depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1. No combination of the applied references teaches or suggests this limitation of the claims.

Accordingly, Applicants request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Objection to the Declaration

The inventors in this case are not resident in the U.S. Applicants have, to date, been unable to locate all of the inventors to sign a new declaration. Applicants are continuing their attempts to locate all of the inventors, however.

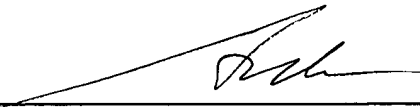
Conclusion

Applicants deem all of the present claims to be patentable over the applied prior art. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited. In the event the foregoing is not deemed persuasive, Applicants request entry of this amendment to place the claims in better form for appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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